Reform in telecom sector

2436. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN:
MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tariff on STD and ISD calls is still not internationally competitive; and

(b) if so, what steps are being contemplated to further reforms in the telecommunication sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government has recently announced further reforms in the telecommunication sector which *inter alia* include reduction in Licence Fee for Long Distance Services, reduction in Entry Fee, Net-worth and Paid up requirement for grant of new National as well as International Long Distance Service Licence, opening of Internet Telephony by Access Service Providers.

Investment by MTNL in overseas telecom services

2437. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the market share of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has been declining over the last few years on account of the competition posed by private players with their international quality service and professional approach;

(b) if so, the details thereof with comparative figures for the last three years;

(c) what measures are initiated to match the service quality of private players and regain the lost ground;

(d) whether MTNL has been permitted to invest in overseas telecom firms; and